

UNBC Community Development Institute

Annual Report 2005

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2005 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2005.

Background:

The mission of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is to support the research, information, and development needs of Northern BC's rural and small town communities as they adjust to change in the new economy. The CDI is interested in two fundamental issues for northern BC's communities: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting community outreach, the CDI is becoming a vital partner to communities interesting in making informed decisions about their own futures.

Under changing social and economic conditions, communities need the capacity to respond. Community capacity refers to:

the ability of residents to organize their assets and resources to achieve objectives they consider important. These objectives may be reactive, where people are faced with a challenge, or innovative, where new visions are established and pursued. Community capacity is built and maintained by the norms, traditions, regulations, and social relationships enabling otherwise disparate individuals to co-ordinate their actions for collective ends.

To enhance this capacity requires community development. In a general sense, community development concerns:

improvements to local social and cultural infrastructure. It is most often identified with increasing the skills, knowledge, and abilities of residents to access information and resources and to then use these tools to create strategies and partnerships which can take advantage of changing circumstances.

The three foundations of the Community Development Institute at UNBC are:

- Research
- Education
- Outreach

The Annual Report is organized under each of these foundations.

Research

The Community Development Institute at UNBC maintains a clear focus upon research. Its goal is to balance both applied and basic work so as to maintain academic credibility and to be of practical relevance to communities. Copies of all completed project reports have been sent to community partners, funding agencies, the Weller Library at UNBC, and most local government/band offices and public libraries in places where the research was carried out. Reports and other research information are also placed on the CDI website (www.unbc.ca/cdi) as an integral part of our mission to share research widely across northern BC. Additionally, summaries of projects are also noted in the CDI Newsletters, which are published quarterly and distributed across northern BC via email.

Projects

From Planning to Action: Reconciling Community Development Strategies with Regional Assets and Infrastructure 2005-2006 Continuing

The purpose of this project was to produce information that will help to overcome a persistent barrier in economic development planning: the gap between planning and implementation. Across northern BC, people have told the research team that their communities are frustrated by being “studied to death” while not seeing their efforts translated into viable action. The findings, and ongoing research associated with the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, illustrate that there are two significant gaps that contribute to this impasse: 1) community economic development options, plans, and strategies fail to adequately address and integrate the capabilities and capacities of the local and regional infrastructure and assets; and 2) proposed strategies fail to adequately comprehend or consider practical questions of competitive advantage, on their own and in association with a more regional approach. The project used a case study approach in the Terrace region to explore this gap between planning and implementation.

Tourism and Development Foundation Project 2005 COMPLETED

Between May and October of 2005, CDI staff along with faculty from UNBC's Resource Recreation and Tourism Program developed new connections with organizations in the tourism sector. Our research has shown that tourism plays an important but little studied part of northern BC's economy. Building upon the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, and with funding support from Western Economic Diversification Canada, this project explored some of the opportunities and challenges for the tourism sector.

The purpose of this project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the District of Mackenzie and surrounding area. The work is being carried out by a research team from UNBC with the goal to provide decision-makers and community groups in Mackenzie and area with information relevant to decision-making over community planning and infrastructure investments. The project involves four investigations. These include an analysis of local population, an assessment of the housing and services' needs of seniors in small town and rural locations, a collation of views and opinions from seniors and decision-makers in Mackenzie and area, and a survey of local seniors to collect information on needs and expectations.

The Heart of the Community: Tracing the Role of the Peace River Women's Institutes
2004-2006 Continuing

Social and voluntary organizations play a central role in the creation and maintenance of rural and small town communities. For more than 100 years, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have been active in Canada's agricultural communities. At present, limited historical records are available on the Peace River region's Women's Institutes. Through a research partnership involving faculty at Northern Lights College, the University of Northern British Columbia, local museums, archives, and libraries in the Peace River region, this collaborative and interdisciplinary project seeks to record and document the history of the area's Women's Institutes (WIs). The project will collect information through a set of oral histories with long-time WI members and will digitally scan and record photographs and other documents which trace the history of individual WIs. This digital information will then be returned to participating WIs, stored in regional museums and archives, made available via a website linked to local history websites, and copies stored at the Northern BC Archives at the University of Northern British Columbia.

New Rural Economy Project - Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
2003-2007 Continuing

Under this initiative, 15 university researchers (across Canada) are joining with rural people and policy makers to help build capacity in rural Canada. Their research and education projects pursue four themes relevant to rural society: communications, environment, services, and governance.

Research grants.

Granting Agency	Subject	\$ Per Year	Year	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator(s)
Northern Land Use Institute (UNBC)	Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview	\$5,000	2004-2005	Greg Halseth	Neil Hanlon
Living Landscapes, Royal BC Museum	The heart of the community: Tracing the role of the Peace River Women's Institutes	\$9,310	2004-2005	Pamela Den Ouden (Northern Lights College)	Greg Halseth (UNBC), Ramona Rose (UNBC), and Steve Roe (Northern Lights College)
SSHRC – Strategic Theme Research Grant - Initiative on the New Economy	Building Capacity in the New Economy	\$750,000 for each of 4 years (UNBC Team receives approx. \$90,000 per year)	2003-2007	Dr. William Reimer, Concordia University	Cross-Canada Research Project – Greg Halseth leads BC Team

Research contracts

Granting Agency	Subject	\$ Per Year	Year	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator(s)
City of Terrace	Terrace and Area Senior's Needs Assessment	\$5000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	
Industry, Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Barriers to the implementation of local and regional economic development strategies in northwest BC	\$20,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Sean Markey
Industry Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Tourism and Development Foundation Project	\$18,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Don Manson, Anne Hardy, Pam Wright
UNBC Northern Landuse Institute	Tourism and Development Foundation Project	\$18,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Don Manson, Anne Hardy, Pam Wright
District of Mackenzie	Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview	\$17,000	2004-2005	Greg Halseth	Neil Hanlon

Reports

Halseth, G. (2005) Northern BC Tourism and Development Foundation Project. Vancouver, BC: Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Ryser, L., Reschny, J., Buttar, O., Pow, V., and Halseth, G. (2005). Community Services and Quality of Life in McBride and Valemount, BC - 2004 Report. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., and Durkee, S. (2005). Shopping and Commuting Patterns in the Northwest Region, BC: Final Report. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., and Durkee, S. (2005). Shopping and Commuting Patterns in Kitimat, B.C. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., and Durkee, S. (2005). Shopping and Commuting Patterns in Prince Rupert, B.C. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., and Durkee, S. (2005). Shopping and Commuting Patterns in Terrace, B.C. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies.

Halseth, Greg and Ryser, L. (2005). Initiative on the New Economy – Innovative Services and Voluntary Organizations: Interim Report. Montreal, QC: Concordia University, New Rural Economy Project.

Halseth, Greg, Ryser, L., Halseth, R. (2005). Initiative on the New Economy – Innovative Services and Voluntary Organizations: An Interim Report for Mackenzie, BC. Montreal, QC: Concordia University, New Rural Economy Project.

Education

The Community Development Institute hopes to enhance capacity building through educational opportunities. This includes student training, work within the university curriculum, continuing education and regional offerings, connections with the northern colleges and with specialized education and training centres, and public talks/conferences to share information.

Student trainees at UNBC

2005

Shiloh Durkee - research assistant, undergraduate student, graduated May 2003

Onkar Buttar - research assistant, undergraduate student, graduated May 2004

Chelan Hoffman - research assistant, continuing undergraduate student at UNBC

Jessica Rayner – research assistant, continuing undergraduate student at UNBC

Research Practicum Student Supervision

2005 Jorge Kelly (UNBC Social Work Program)

Jack Kinnear (UNBC Social Work Program)

Presentations

2005 “Keynote Speaker”, “Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Rural BC creating its own destiny, 3rd Annual BC Rural Communities Summit, Merritt, BC, June 16-18, 2005.

“Keynote Speaker”, Oil and Gas Community Dialogue, Prince Rupert, BC, April 18, 2005.

“Economic Development Potential in Northern British Columbia, Alaska Canada Railway Corridor Conference, Prince George, BC, April 8, 2005.

“On our own terms: Opportunities and challenges in northern cultural tourism”, Winter Opportunities Summit, Prince George, BC, February 17-18.

“Keynote Speaker”, The Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic and the Future of Communities and Ecosystems: Research Synthesis and Strategy Workshop Series, November 7, 2005.

Conference Organization:

Member of organizing committee, Integrating Child, Youth, and Family Services in the North West Conference, Terrace, BC, November 3, 2005.

Member of organizing committee, Northern Economic Forum, Prince George, BC, October 26-28, 2005.

CDI Community Speaker's Series

The CDI's Community Speaker's Series invites experts to talk on important and relevant topics for northern BC. The Community Speaker's Series consists of classroom lectures at UNBC, a public lecture in Prince George, and a public talk in another northern BC community. These lectures are free and open to the public.

Spring 2005

SFU researcher Sean Markey spoke in Prince George, Terrace, and Kitimat on the ways that local communities are building an economy, forging and strengthening social ties, and developing local assets and capacity.

Prince George, Thursday, March 17, Room 7-158, UNBC Prince George Campus
7:30 to 9:00pm

Kitimat, Friday, March 18, Conference Room #1, Kitimat Valley Institute for Industrial Education, 7:30 to 9:00pm

Community partners included Kitimat Stikine Regional District, 16/37 Community Futures, District of Kitimat, UNBC Regional Offices in Terrace

Fall 2005

Tourism BC's Director of Research Richard Porges spoke in Prince George and Williams Lake about applying research to support community tourism development.

Prince George, Wednesday, October 05, Room 7-150, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, UNBC Prince George Campus

Williams Lake, Thursday, October 06, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Williams Lake City Hall

Community partners included Northern BC Tourism Association, Cariboo-Chilcotin-Coast Tourism Association, City of Williams Lake

CDI Publication Series

The CDI Publication Series is a peer reviewed outlet that focuses upon invited reports on topics of relevance to the mandate of CDI and important to northern British Columbia's communities. The peer review aspect of the Series ensures that only high quality research is published. A paper by Dr. Anne Hardy from UNBC's Resource Recreation and Tourism Program on 'Drive Tourism' is presently under review.

Outreach

The CDI is a resource centre to which communities and decision-makers can turn in their search for timely and relevant information. It is also be a conduit through which information from outside the region is shared with communities. Building upon a strong "extension" tradition to connect research and training opportunities with community needs, and to translate best practices into applied tools, links are provided so rural and small town places can access additional information and resources. Important aspects of outreach for the CDI include support for local initiatives, our community visits, assistance with the Northern Economic Forum, our Community Contact Newsletters, and the CDI Website:

Support for Local Initiatives

- 2004 - 2005 Advisor for the City of Quesnel on the Quesnel 2020 Economic Development Project.

- 2004 - 2006 Appointed to the Minister's Community Advisory Group, British Columbia Ministry of State for Forest Operations, April 2004 to March 2006.

- 2005 Advisor/Facilitator for the Integrating Child, Youth, and Family Services in the North West Conference, Terrace, BC.

Northern Economic Forum

The CDI's "Connected North" report, from our Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, identified that communities in northern BC wanted more opportunities to talk about actions they could take in order to move their economies forward. Bolstered by other reports (including "Ramp-UP" by Vital Economy Inc. and "Working Together to Create Sustainable Wealth" by the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations), efforts coalesced around creating a meeting of northerners – a Northern BC Economic Development Forum.

The 2005 Northern Economic Forum was held October 26-28, 2005 in Prince George. Titled "From the Bookshelf to the Bottom Line" the forum was focused on discussions to identify actions that will help stimulate growth and evolution of northern BC's economy.

The CDI is a member of the Forum Steering Committee.

Community Contact Newsletters

The CDI Community Contacts Newsletter is published quarterly with the goal to share information and news about community development activities.

February 2005 Volume 1 No.2
20 May 2005 Volume 1 No.3
23 September 2005 Volume 1 No.4

CDI Website: ***<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/index.html>***

The CDI website is one of the key tools for collecting and communicating information about community development issues as they affect northern BC. Information on the website is organized under the following topics:

- Introduction
- Institute Description
- What's New
- Community Speaker Series
- CDI Publications Series
- Northern Economic Forum
- Newsletters
- Mountain Pine Beetle Links
- Community Visits
- Institute Director
- Staff
- Research
- Information Sharing
- Links
- Contact Information

Under links, the website collects sites that may be of interest to our northern communities under the following categories

- Statistics & Data
- Governments
- First Nations
- Rural Studies Centres
- Non Governmental & Other Organisations
- Other Links
- Community Forests
- Northern BC Sites

Community Visits Schedule

Community visits to form an integral part of the CDI mission. They are part of our ongoing efforts to build and grow relationships, collect and share community development information, identify new topics and issues of relevance to our community partners, and evaluate ways by which we can get needed information into the hands of our communities. Community visits not only include meetings with individuals and organizations, but often also includes public speaking invitations from community groups, local government / band councils, and chambers of commerce.

2005

Wells, Barkerville, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Sugarcane, Horsefly, Likely, Lac La Hache,
100 Mile House, Nemiah Valley, Clearwater, Merritt 31 May - 18 June
Houston, Telkwa, Smithers 26 June - 30 June
Klemtu, Bella Coola, Hagensborg, Firvale, Anahim Lake, Nimpo Lake, Tatla, Tatlayoko
Lake 10 July - 16 July
Moberly Lake, Hudson's Hope, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Chetwynd 18 July - 22
July
Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Southside 2 August - 5 August
Smithers, Smithers, the Hazeltons, Kitwanga, Kitimat, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Skidegate,
Tlell, Sandspit, Port Clements, Masset, Old Masset, Queen Charlotte City 15
August - 27 August
Meziadin Junction, Stewart, Iskut, Dease Lake, Atlin, Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Liard
River, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John 5 September - 22 September